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1941

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D. T. T. & Co., Ltd.
Lighting & Sound Engineers, Ltd.
High Water—19.18.
Low Water—12.32.

The Hongkong Telegraph

FOUNDED 1861 四拜禮 號六廿月二十英港香 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1940. 日八廿月一十 SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS \$30.00 PER ANNUM

FINAL EDITION

For your New Year's Party

CRACKERS, STREAMERS, BALLOONS, NOVELTIES, ETC.

Big selection at

WHITEAWAY'S

HEAVY GUNS BATTER AT BARDIA: FLAMING RING AROUND CITY

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY BEFORE BARDIA, DEC. 25 (UP).—FRESH BATTERIES OF GUNS WITH HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS OF INFANTRY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP FOR THE BATTLE OF BARDIA.

MASSED LINES OF CANNON ARE ROARING DAY AND NIGHT TO FORM A FLAMING RING ON THE LAND SIDE, WHILE THE BIG GUNS OF THE NAVY CONTINUE A MURDEROUS VOLLEY FROM THE SEA.

The town itself has thrown up a pall of yellowish smoke, which, with the dust and fumes from the British artillery, obscures a flawless blue sky.

Headquarters' Communique

CAIRO, Dec. 25 (UP).—To-day's General Headquarters communique says, "In Libya, preparations to deal with the situation at Bardia are being steadily rushed forward despite renewed air activity for support of the beleaguered garrison."

"West from Gallabat our patrols, again inflicted casualties on the enemy."

"British raiders made a surprise attack on Valona aerodrome last Tuesday and bombed grounded planes and hangars and machine-gunned the area from a low level. They departed with 'the aerodrome engulfed in smoke'. A cruiser which put up an anti-aircraft barrage was heavily machine-gunned from a low height."

The communique said that aerodromes at Timi and Gazalla on the Western Desert were raided. A large formation of enemy bombers escorted by fighter planes raided Sollum "causing slight damage and a number of casualties."

Artillery Duel

CAIRO, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Spasmodic artillery fire from both sides continued to-day at Bardia. British forces have been subjected to dive-bombing attacks by enemy aircraft but frontline observers state that these attacks were mostly ineffective in causing few casualties.

Throughout the Western Desert, British padres held a simple Christmas service for the troops.

C-in-C's Order of Day

CAIRO, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief of British Troops in the Middle East, in an Order of the Day to the troops, says that operations have not ended and that further efforts with a similar spirit will bring further successes.

The Order thanks all ranks and says that success was due to careful preparation, good administration, and hard training behind the lines as well as in the trenches.

Only troops trained to the highest moral and physical pitch, led with dashing confidence, could have carried through the operation so swiftly and successfully at such small cost.

Longmore's Message

CAIRO, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, Commander-in-Chief of the R.A.F. in the Middle East, in a message to all ranks of the R.A.F., Australian and South African air forces, sends his Christmas greetings.

The Air Chief Marshal added that with ever-increasing resources and the high morale of the squadrons, we shall look forward to a victorious new year and a proper Christmas in the years to come.

Italians Dive-Bombing

CAIRO, Dec. 25 (UP).—The Italians are attempting to relieve the British pressure on Bardia by dive-bombing attacks on British concentrations, but military circles are of the opinion that it is very unlikely that the British plans will suffer the slightest delay, and that Bardia will be dealt with in due time. The only results of the Italian raids have been slight casualties.

LATEST

This Morning's City Tragedy

A well-dressed Chinese woman crashed to her death this morning when she either jumped or fell from the third floor of the Asia Hotel in Des Voeux Road Central.

The woman had registered in the hotel with a man on December 23. The man is reported to have left the hotel at midnight last night, and the disturbed state of the room indicated that a quarrel had taken place.

See Back Page For Further City News

JAPAN-THAILAND TREATY Text Revealed

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

TOKYO, Dec. 24 (Domei).—

Hailing it as "a valuable contribution toward the political progress of East Asia," Dr Nobutomi Ito, President of the Information Board, declared that the Nippon-Thai treaty which went into effect on December 23 when ratifications were exchanged at Bangkok, would form the basis of future relations between the two countries.

Dr Ito emphasized that the treaty "is not in its spirit and letter such a passive one as the so-called non-aggression treaty but a progressive one."

Purpose Of Pact

The Government, spokesman's statement issued this morning read: "As announced at the time of its conclusion by the Foreign Office on June 12, the purpose of the Japan-Thai treaty is as follows:

Firstly, to respect mutually each other's territorial integrity and reaffirm the peace and friendship existing between them.

Secondly, to exchange information and consult one another regarding any question of common interest that may arise.

Thirdly, in the event of one of the high contracting parties being attacked by any third Power or Powers, the other party undertakes not to give aid or assistance to the said Power or Powers.

The treaty is effective for five years. It is a treaty which makes a valuable contribution toward the political progress of East Asia now that Japan is devoting all her efforts to the establishment of a sphere of common prosperity in greater East Asia.

In view of the fact that the treaty is not in its spirit and letter such a passive one, it is clear that both Japan and Thailand intend to make this treaty a basis of their friendly relations.

It is indeed a source of gratification that the treaty has now come into effect."

Five Articles

The treaty consists of five articles of which the text reads: "Article 1. The high contracting parties shall mutually respect each other's territorial integrity and hereby reaffirm constant peace and perpetual friendship existing between them."

"Article 2. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 3. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 4. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 5. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 6. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 7. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 8. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

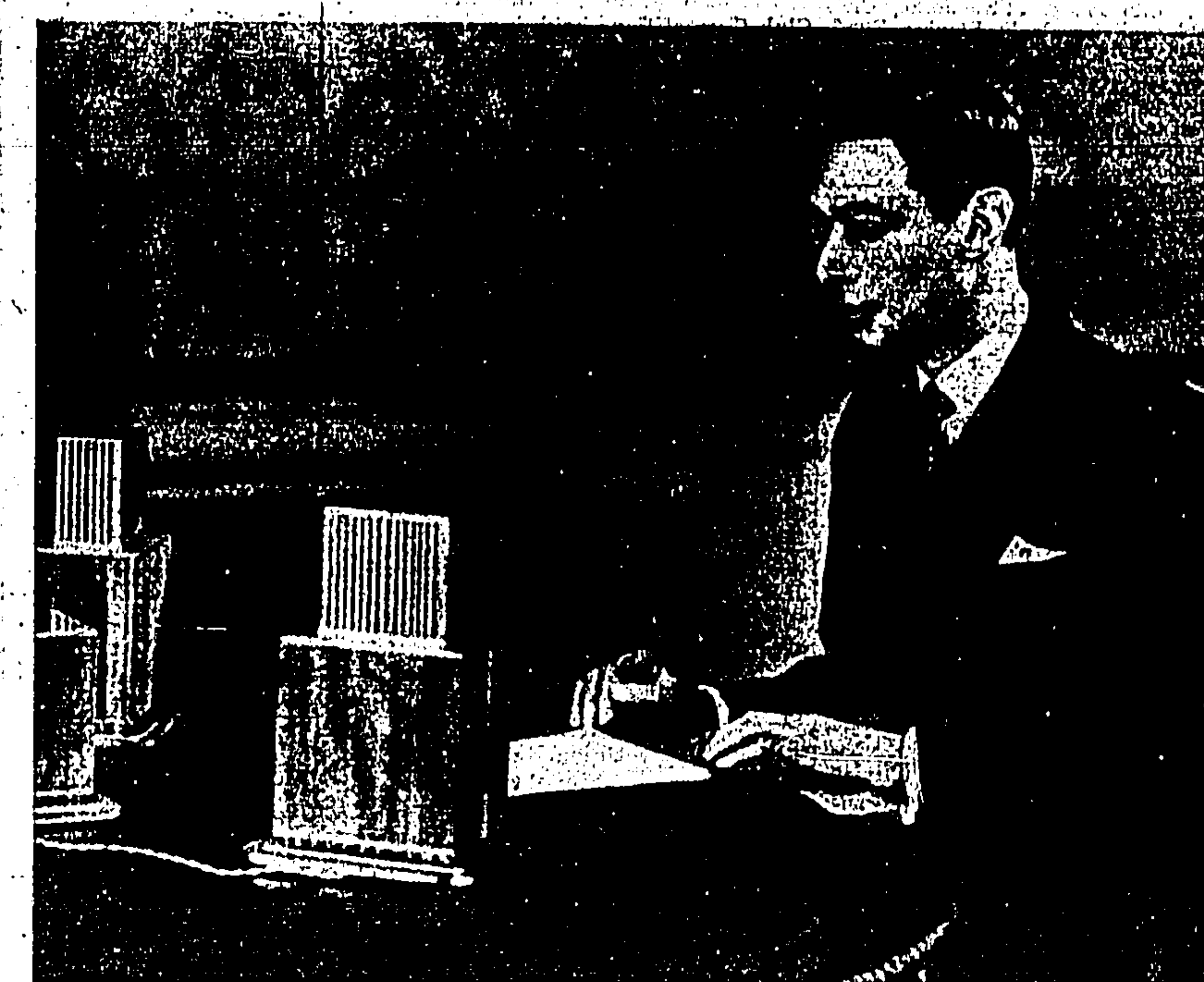
"Article 9. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 10. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 11. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

"Article 12. The high contracting parties shall mutually maintain peace and friendship."

THE KING BROADCASTS TO HIS EMPIRE



His Majesty the King yesterday broadcast his annual Christmas message to the Empire, when he paid high tribute to the splendid efforts made during the past year by the dominions and colonies. The speech was relayed in Hongkong by ZBW and clearly heard.

Huge Defence Expenditures

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (UP).—

The defence expenditures for the first six months of the current fiscal year totalled \$1,550,000,000, constituting nearly one-third of the total expenditures from the general fund, according to data gathered at the Treasury Department.

Defence expenses for October aggregated nearly \$300,000,000 compared with the total defence expenditures during the last fiscal year of \$654,000,000.

During the current year, the Navy led with an expenditure of \$779,000,000.

The public debt was \$44,997,000,000 on December 20, and is now presumed to be about \$45,000,000,000, whereas the legal debt limit is \$49,000,000,000.

Unofficial Christmas Truce

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 25 (UP).—At

8.40 p.m. it was reported that if

a continuance of the unofficial

truce hinges on the weather,

there will probably be no British

or German raids to-night.

Occasional snow and mist with a

heavily overcast sky are reported

over the Straits of Dover.

Earlier—at nightfall—it was reported that the unofficial truce had passed the 24-hour mark and that no German planes had been reported over England during that period.

Moreover, there have been no reports of R.A.F. bombings since the night of December 23-24. There is some apprehension regarding tonight, however, because the Channel weather has improved and has become clear and cold.

Berlin Concedes Truce

BERLIN, Dec. 25 (UP).—The German High Command revealed today what is tantamount to an unofficial Christmas Eve truce in the air.

The announcement said: "The German air force on the night of the 24th and on the 25th undertook no offensive operations. The enemy did not attack the Reich territory."

Few Planes Appear

LONDON, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—There was only slight enemy air activity during daylight to-day over Britain.

The Home Security communique reports a few enemy aircraft over the Channel and off the Scottish coast. One enemy plane was shot down in the Orkneys by fighters of the Fleet Air Arm co-operating with the R.A.F. Four of the crew were captured.

Wants To Know Terms For Peace In Europe

U.S. Senator's Suggestions

Special to the "Telegraph"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (UP).—Senator Millard Tydings to-day urged the Administration to try to ascertain Britain's Germany's and Italy's minimum requirements for a "just peace" before charting the international course of the United States policy.

He suggested that answers be sought to the following:

"Is it possible to secure a just peace in Europe?"

"What, precisely, are the conditions to which Britain, on the one hand, and the Axis Powers on the other will agree to a just peace?"

He said that if President Roosevelt or Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State find peace impossible, then the United States could proceed "with vim and rightly, project our own country's course."

He said that a just peace must involve firstly the restoration of Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France to political sovereignty and independence. "A peace which would do less is certainly impossible," he declared.

Secondly, a formula founded primarily on national origin and subjects which would establish the future for such countries as Poland and Czechoslovakia was essential.

KING'S SPEECH

LONDON, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—The German controlled Danish wireless to-night gave an unusually full summary of King George's broadcast.

Several passages of the speech were verbatim, such as the King's statement that inhabitants of bombed cities are facing their ordeal in a way of which they can be proud.

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NEW LOANS FOR CHINA

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25

(Reuter).—Three Chinese financiers from Shanghai have arrived here to arrange loans for the reconstruction of China.

They are P. C. Young, of the Kinchen Banking Corporation; C. S. Liu, of the China Development and Finance Corporation; and Fred Sze, of the Joint Savings Company.

They will remain in San Francisco two or three days before heading for Washington to confer with Government officials and Mr. T. V. Soong, the special Chinese envoy.

Australian Wool For America

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 25 (UP).—A White

Paper reveals an exchange of notes between Lord Halifax, the Foreign Minister and Mr. H. Johnson, American Charge d'Affaires, by which the British Government makes 250,000,000 pounds of Australian wool available to the United States Government as a strategic reserve against any possible emergency shortage in the United States.

Crippling Raids On Tripoli Harbour

Special to the "Telegraph"

CAIRO, Dec. 24 (UP).—An R.A.F. communique issued to-day says that Tripoli and Castel Benito were heavily bombed on Monday night. "While the attack was being made on the aerodrome where several direct hits were registered, causing loud explosions fierce raids were made on the jetty and seaplane hangars, power station and other military targets," stated the communique.

The communique added: "direct hits were registered on the Customs House and several on the seaplane hangars. The power station was straddled with bombs and nine explosions followed in quick succession. There was every indication that a large quantity of oil was blown up."

"All our aircraft returned safely."

Two Ships Sunk

LONDON, Dec. 24 (UP).—The Admiralty announced that two merchant ships were successfully attacked Tripoli harbour on the night of December 20-21 where they torpedoed and sank two merchant vessels.

Raid On Continent

LONDON, Dec. 24 (UP).—The Air Ministry to-day announced that the R.A.F. last night attacked the invasion ports at Boulogne, Dunkirk and Ostend, in addition to industrial targets in the Rhineland including Ludwigshafen. One R.A.F. plane is missing.

Sing War Songs For Carols In Shelters

London's Christmas Eve

Special to the "Telegraph"

LONDON, Dec. 24 (UP).—At 10 p.m. to-night crowds in the Liverpool street station air raid shelter sang war songs, instead of carols.

Over 10,000 were lying on the floor and benches in two unfinished subway tubes forming one of London's largest shelters.

Five hundred children, with their parents, went to bed early.

The regular inhabitants of the shelter spent the day making paper chains and pennants and festooned the curved tube walls. Two Christmas trees were lighted by electricity and were also decorated.

The biggest Christmas celebrations will be held to-morrow when every child will receive candy, cakes and

fruit. The Lord Mayor and other dignitaries have been invited.

Quiet Christmas Day

LONDON, Dec. 25 (UP).—Christmas Day began peacefully throughout Britain. There were no air raid alarms anywhere during Christmas Eve or to-day up to daylight, except for two small coastal raids.

Small Scale Raids

LONDON, Dec. 24 (UP).—(7.30 p.m.). There were no air raids to-day.

TURN to Back Page, Column 3

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

25 words \$2.50
for 3 days prepaid

FOUND.

FOUND on December 12, very fine red Chow Dog. If not claimed within three days will be sold and proceeds handed to the Bomber Fund. Please apply Mrs. Hogg, Jockey Club Stables.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Three Mongrel Puppies. Can be seen at the Jockey Club Stables. Proceeds to Bomber Fund. Please apply Mrs. Hogg.

BEDLINGTON TERRIER DOG thoroughbred for sale, \$100 to be given to the War Fund. Can be seen by appointment. Tel. 30709, office hours.

"HONGKONG AS REVEALED BY THE CAMERA" Second Edition. Over 60 excellent views of the Colony. Price \$1.50. Obtainable at Kelly & Walsh Ltd., Hongkong Travel Bureau or from the Publishers South China Morning Post, Ltd., Wyndham Street.

Tribute To Navy By Admiralty

Unrelenting Zeal
Shown in Duties
LONDON, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—A tribute to the courage and tenacity of all units of the British Fleet is paid in a Christmas message from the Admiralty.

The message points out that the same conditions prevailed now as last year when the Admiralty referred to the necessity for pursuing the war at sea with the same unrelenting zeal during the Christmas season as it had been since the beginning of the war. "During the past year, our surface forces, submarines and aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm have been in contact with the enemy on many occasions and have invariably shown a fighting spirit and tenacity of purpose of the highest order."

"At the same time, smaller units employed on escort patrol and mine-sweepers have carried out their arduous duties, so essential to the defence of our trade and the life of the country, in a courageous and tireless manner in all weather and have earned the gratitude and admiration of the Admiralty."

Lady Dill Dies In London

LONDON, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—Lady Dill, wife of General Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, has died in London after a long illness.

Crossword Puzzle

By LAURE MORRIS

ACROSS ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1—Ancient warship	10—Crest of lion	19—Lion's head	28—Lion's head
2—Lion's head	11—Lion's head	20—Lion's head	29—Lion's head
3—Lion's head	12—Lion's head	21—Lion's head	30—Lion's head
4—Lion's head	13—Lion's head	22—Lion's head	31—Lion's head
5—Lion's head	14—Lion's head	23—Lion's head	32—Lion's head
6—Lion's head	15—Lion's head	24—Lion's head	33—Lion's head
7—Lion's head	16—Lion's head	25—Lion's head	34—Lion's head
8—Lion's head	17—Lion's head	26—Lion's head	35—Lion's head
9—Lion's head	18—Lion's head	27—Lion's head	36—Lion's head

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9—Lion's head	18—Lion's head	27—Lion's head	36—Lion's head

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE

KOWLOON BOWLING GREEN CLUB

Members of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club will be "At Home" to all invited Guests on the occasion of the Club's Annual "At Home" and Closing Day, to be held on Saturday, 28th December, 1940. The Lawn Bowls games will commence at 2.30.

Immediately after these friendly games, there will be a Presentation of Prizes to winners of the various Club Competitions held during the year.

E. A. ATKINS,
Hon. Secretary.

M.V. "HOEGH TRANSPORTER"

On instructions from the Underwriters, Tenders are invited for the Single Screw Motor Vessel "HOEGH TRANSPORTER" as she lies submerged in her damaged condition in Singapore Roads.

The vessel is of the Sholter Deck type designed for a carrying capacity of 9,000 tons and fitted with Diesel Machinery.

A large part of the cargo has been removed from the vessel.

Tenders should be forwarded to the undersigned not later than 31st December, 1940, who will supply any further information available.

The highest, or any, tender may not necessarily be accepted.

RITCHIE & BISSET,
Union Building,
Singapore.

NOTICE

DEFENCE REGULATIONS 1940

The following rates will be charged for mailing single copies of the following newspapers abroad:—

South China Morning Post

China and Macao
16 cents per copy

British Empire and Foreign

25 cents per copy

The Hongkong Telegraph

China and Macao
14 cents per copy

16 cents Saturdays

British and Foreign
20 cents per copy

23 cents Saturdays.

Suner For Tangier

Rome, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—The Spanish Foreign Minister, Sr. Serrano Suner, will visit Tangier shortly, says a Tangier despatch to an Italian news agency.



WOMAN ENVOY—Miss Josefita Arias, sister of the President of Panama, arriving in New York to take up a post as consul general. She is the first woman ever appointed to that position in New York for a foreign government.

Raids Change Habits Of Many Londoners

"How do you get home in the air raids?" a London reporter asked a dozen people this question. Their replies show that Londoners have to a very considerable extent changed their habits since the raids.

They walk more, go to bed earlier, get up earlier, eat less, read more and pay their social calls early in the evening.

At first sight these changes may not seem to have much to do with my question writes the newsman, but actually they are all occasioned by the exigencies of travel. Here are some of the replies I received:

Some Replies

Mr. Arthur Crocker, a London business man now living in a Surrey village: "I find boredom the greatest trial these days. So in the past six weeks I have tried 26 different routes for getting to and from the office. I relieve the boredom by seeing how quickly I can do the journey and trying to beat my record time."

Miss Joan Stephens, a typist living near Regent's Park: "In the old days I used to hurry home, change, have a quick meal and spend the rest of the evening with my friends. Now I reverse the process. I linger in town with my friends, avoid the early evening rush and arrive home for a late meal and early bed. I have just turned my evenings upside down."

Mr. C. Groce, a City estate agent living at West Kensington: "I try to work out new combinations of the available routes home. Sometimes I walk from buses to stations and from stations to trains. On fine evenings I walk as far as I can. One night when I had a problem on my mind, I found myself at my front door, having walked all the way."

Mr. R. Allen, a bank clerk who has been evacuated to the Epping Forest district: "I stay in town with my colleagues as long as I can until the trains are not so crowded. Then I travel home in comfort. My main difficulty is to find the fine balance between eluding the crowds at one end and the A.A. barrage at the other."

Healthier Lines

Curiously enough, many people seem to be leading healthier lives under these air-raid conditions. For it is true to say that Londoners had largely become carpet-slippers, stay-at-homes, getting their only exercise in their gardens. Now they have to walk considerable distances besides putting up with other discomforts.

Australia Hit By Drought

Smaller Harvest

Though considerable areas of New South Wales and Victoria had useful rains recently, the drought, which has extended almost throughout Australia for months, is still unbroken.

Conferences have been held of wheat-growing interests, and later with Ministers of the Commonwealth Government, to discuss relief measures, and the difficulties of shipping and marketing the available surplus. It is authoritatively estimated that the new crop will not exceed 100,000,000 bushels, compared with 215,000,000 last year.

The Commonwealth Government is likely to adopt Britain's suggestion to buy and store Papua and New Guinea copra, in preference to permitting proposed shipments to Mexico, since it might reach enemy-controlled countries from Mexico.

SCOTLAND ELIMINATE CHINA 6-5

(Continued from Page 6.)
had had an open goal only to shoot wide. As the final whistle blew, the Chinese were still pressing, but the good work of the Scots' defence nullified their efforts.

Both keepers played as well as was to be expected. Both had about the same share of work to do. Tang Chung-wan did not appear to partner Hou Yung-sang well at all, and his covering of Ng Kee-cheung at left half left much to be desired. Ng Kee-cheung was too prone to go up field, and gave Charlie too much rope. Hou Yung-sang cleared and tackled well and strongly, supported Soong Ling-sing put in his share of work, and when Hau King-sing performed the duties of the third back at one period, he undertook his duties as well. The centre half was a tireless worker, but found in Howlett and Co., a handful to watch, as the runs through of Hossack had him on tenterhooks.

Of the Chinese forwards, the quintette played well, but once again, it was Fung King-cheung who was the brain of the attack; his partner ship with Chung Yung-sang was delightful to watch. Lee Wai-long was too well watched by Falconer to be of much danger. Both wingers were dangerous when on the move and Lai Shui-wing went about his work unobtrusively.

The Scots' defenders are to be congratulated on the great work put in by them, especially in the second half. During the first period they were unsettled but once they had settled down they had the measure of the Chinese. The backs, Naysmith and Fraser, were superb, tackling and clearing with precision, and covered each other well. Falconer was a tower of strength in the centre half berth, his policing of Lee being a delightful piece of work, and besides this he found time to assist the forwards.

Monroe, too, quite sometime to get on his feet, his own marking of Hau King-lau at the early stage allowed this player to score two goals. Thereafter he improved. Clark went about his work with a will and did all that was required of him, although he found in the partnership of Chung Yung-sang and Fung King-cheung a tough proposition.

Of the forwards, Howlett was conspicuous by his backing up, and his distribution to the wingers was good at times. Ferrier played as well as was to be expected, putting in a lot of good work, but he was hard pressed. Hossack was a great trial, his thrustful bursts down the middle, had the Chinese guessing. Of the wingers, Charlie was more in the picture, sending across many good centres, and was indirectly responsible for at least two goals. Marshall was inclined to be slow and did not know what to do with the ball when in possession. The inside trio of Howlett, Hossack and Ferrier had a very good understanding, and this trio worked like Trojans to achieve victory.

Chinese: Lau Hin-hon; Hou Yung-sang; Tang Chung-wan; Soong Ling-sing; Hsu King-sing; Ng Kee-cheung; Chung Yung-sang; Fung King-cheung; Lee Wai-long; Lai Shui-wing; Hau King-lau.
Scotland: Banker; Naysmith, Monroe; Falconer, Clark; Howlett, Hossack, Ferrier, Marshall.

War Navy Is Healthier

In every part of the world today the health of the Royal Navy is better than ever it has been, although the personnel is working extremely hard and almost continuously in all sort of climates.

In the present war there have been no major actions, and the brunt of the medical work has fallen on the shoulders of the younger doctors, who have done excellently.

During the action with the Admiral Graf Spee off the River Plate an enormous amount of work was thrown upon the medical staffs. In the Exeter the captain and officers gave up their quarters to accommodate the wounded. An orthopaedic specialist was sent out from England to the Falkland Islands to look after the casualties.

Wire Rope Round Leg

In one small ship an A.B. got a wire rope round his leg while paravanes were being got out, sustaining a compound comminuted fracture. The youthful medical officer had to make up his mind whether to take off the limb or not. He quickly decided to operate, and at his request the captain allowed him to take the ship, but before long was obliged to increase to full speed again. Though the resultant vibration made it very difficult, the surgeon contrived to carry out the operation with the assistance of his sick berth steward.

Fishhooks Boom In Wartime

Great Britain is busy with her war but not too busy to make fishhooks. Before the war nearly all the hooks used by western tackle manufacturers for making wet and dry flies came from Oslo, Norway. Since German occupation of Norway a manufacturing concern at Redditch, England, has made a bid for this business and thousands of English hooks now are passing through the Great Falls custom house.

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Reserve Fund £1,000,000

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SAVINGS ACCOUNTS also opened in Local Currency and Sterling with interest allowed at rates obtainable on application.

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32, Mosley Street, Manchester, 2.

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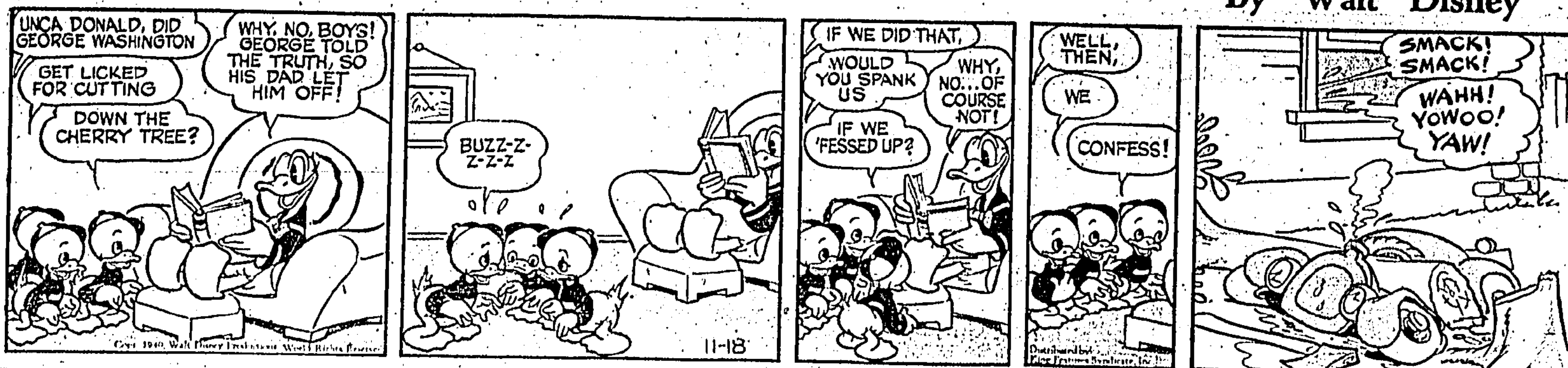
POST OFFICE

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On Thursday, December 26, the General Post Office and Branch Post Offices will be open as follows:
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MAGAZINE PAGE

Miracle of our CITIZEN ARMY

I HAVE seen beyond any doubt the reason why Britain will never be successfully invaded.

I write that sentence with confidence.

Each night, for the past three weeks, I have gone out with one unit or other of the Home Guard in every sort of place—from Devon to Scotland, from the front-line counties of the Channel coast to the great industrial cities of the North.

And in those three weeks I have seen the greatness of Britain in an emergency expressed as I believe it has never been expressed before.

I saw a whole nation dropping, every sectional difference and uniting in defence.

Behind every country hedge I found men patrolling, armed and ready should the invader come—anxious, to tell the truth, that he should come, that they could take a part in ending this war.

Across every open space and moorland I found men watching, never relaxing from the alert; and in the cities, the factories, the mine-fields, the shipyards, a great legion of men drilling, mustering, mounting guard, preparing.

AMAZING

The Government itself, surely, must have been amazed at the response to its call for a Home Guard—1,300,000 men in some two months before the recruiting list was closed.

A vast army in a score of days—unpaid, yet all the keener for that, many of them veterans of one great war, all of them clamouring to be allowed to serve.

The whole history of the world has never produced an army like it. I know that the professional soldiers were amazed, for several of them told me so.

"After the last war," said one of them, "we grew to think that Britain had changed and there would never be another generation like ours."

"Then came Dunkirk to prove that the young men were fiercer than ever. And after that the call to defend England at home, and we knew with gladness that all the nation was sound."

"I have seen many armies and quite a lot of fighting. I have never seen men so keen and so determined."

MISTAKES

There have, of course, been mistakes. Nothing so quick-

Dudley Barker

sums up his inspection of the Home Guard

ly organised could have escaped them.

It was a mistake to organise defence units in factories, pits, workshops and such separately from the main body of the Home Guard and to say that those units would fight only inside their own walls.

The Home Guard that defends the town defends all the factories in it—senseless to wait till the enemy is at the machines before employing all your force against him.

This division of forces has not worked well in practice, and it should be changed.

It was a mistake to appoint some of the present commanders.

In my journey I came across some who are swollen with a little local power, insist on military ranks and martinet discipline, and miss the whole spirit of the Home Guard, which is that of a body of free men equal in status, arming to defend their homes.

There are some few commanders who are making this question of rank a sort of personal issue, setting themselves up as little local Cæsars.

There are not many of them, and they are not all ex-soldiers. They are themselves guilty of insubordination, since they are flatly disobeying the Army Council's instructions. They should be dismissed at once.

There are other commanders, so lacking in imagination that the only training they give their men is a carbon copy of old-fashioned military discipline (route marches, forming fours, church parades).

"That sort of thing encourages the men," said one of them.

The Home Guardsmen who do civilian jobs all day have insufficient time for the necessary training and none to spare for route marches and forming fours. They can go to church as civilians if they wish, without putting on a uniform to do so.

I actually found one unit being taught ceremonial drill and slow marching.

"But that's fine," said a staff officer of one of the Commands. "That will teach them discipline and they'll fight better. Look at the Guards."

NONSENSE

All nonsense. The Home Guard will never fight like the Guards. In a pitched battle they will never be more than second-class troops.

But train them the right way, as the unofficial instructors from the International Brigade train them at Osterley Park, and in guerilla fighting and they'll show even the Guards a thing or two.

The Home Guardsmen are individuals and they cannot

be hammered into a machine. But they are great individuals.

If you are a Home Guardsman you know how keen and determined your own little unit is. Believe me, the spirit is the same throughout the land, in field and factory alike, on city square and village green.

The spirit of the Home Guard is something very precious for Britain, and only danger threatens it. If Hitler does not invade before winter boredom might.

KEEP IT UP

As dark evenings curtail training and no parachutists descend, the Home Guard will begin to feel that after all their efforts were for nothing and the danger against which they were mobilised has not come to pass.

Interest may slacken. That must not happen.

We cannot afford to lose the Home Guard enthusiasm that put new hearts in all the people when things were blackest and may even perhaps be the decisive factor in averting invasion altogether.

That enthusiasm must be kept up by every device of training and fellowship.

THE REAL JOB

Above all, I believe, the enthusiasm of the Home Guard can best be preserved by stressing to them the real job that awaits them.

They were formed to round up parachutists, but that is not to be their end. A great role lies ahead.

When in the coming summer the regular armies go overseas to drive the Nazis home the safety of Britain will be entrusted to the Home Guard within her own shores.

Tell them that, tell them to fit themselves for that, and their enthusiasm will not abate.

More Savings Are Needed

Lord Stamp's View

The view that there were certain features in the financial situation on which some satisfaction was justified was expressed by Lord Stamp at a Bristol War Weapons Week Luncheon.

The onset of inflation had been held back, he said, and the rise in prices was not much more than could be accounted for by increased real costs in shipping risks, A.R.P. and other war expenditure. Nevertheless the point of inflation was just round the corner.

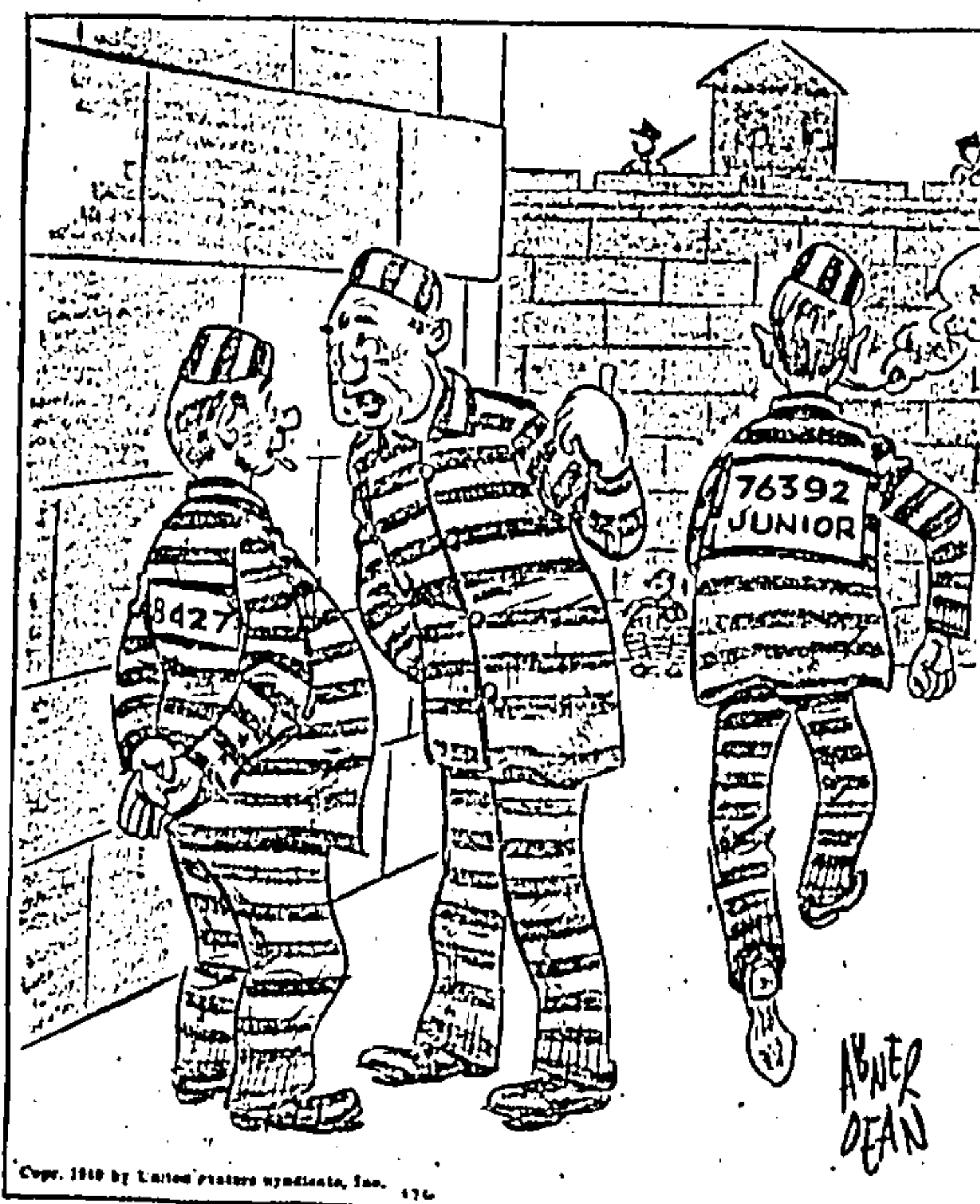
Room for Improvement

Saying that there was considerable room for improvement in savings, Lord Stamp stated that there were wide differences between the contributions of various places, which showed that where the spirit was keen bigger results could be obtained.

"There is a lower rate per head in the larger towns of over 100,000 inhabitants than in the smaller ones," he noted, "and there are indications that the places suffering heavy air raid attacks have been slackening off less per head in their savings than others. This seems to show that a sense of danger stimulates action."

FUNNY SIDE UP

By Abner Dean



"Remember Number 76392? ... well, that's his son!"

'Breadbasket' Wins Fame for Molotov

M. MOLOTOV, Premier and Foreign Commissar of Russia, has now achieved a niche in history.

Not because in his own country he is hailed as the genius of the Soviet pact with Germany, Finland and the Baltic States, but because, like Maxim and Mills, his name is linked with a weapon of war—the "Molotov Breadbasket."

It is extremely unlikely that Molotov had anything to do with the "breadbaskets"—a container for one H.E. bomb and a number of incendiaries first used by the Russians against the Finns—but it is a story he will never be able to destroy.

OTHERS who have given their names to engines of war really set out to invent them.

Sir Hiram Maxim, an Anglo-American, invented the first truly automatic machine gun in 1889.

Usually any complicated revolutionary device starts in a small way and is developed slowly over a number of years.

But the first Maxim, water-jacketed and fed by belts of 250 rounds of ammunition, smacked off bullets at more than 600 rounds a minute.

Many years passed before this was substantially increased.

ISAAC NEWTON LEWIS, who died in 1931, had retired from the United States Army with the rank of colonel when he invented his famous gun.

In 1913 most of the European Powers gave trial orders, but our experts reported against the gun. Just before the war of 1914, however, Britain ordered five, at £175 each.

The price came down with successive orders, and by the end of the war British contracts for the guns totalled £13,000,000.

The Lewis gun is still immensely valuable as a light anti-aircraft gun.

ONE of the most widely used "named" war inventions was undoubtedly the Mills bomb, a handy device like a small metal pineapple, of which the Allies used 75,000,000 between 1914 and 1918.

By J. D. S. ALAN

The inventor was the late Sir William Mills, the famous engineer, who after the war received £27,000 for it.

Also well known in the trenches of the last war was the Hale rifle grenade.

This was a vicious little bomb screwed on a rod and discharged from an ordinary rifle.

They were not fired from the shoulder, but with the butt of rifle resting on the ground.

It was invented by the late Frederick Martin Hale, who had 270 war patents to his name, and who received a Government award of £22,000.

TO-DAY, when our guns throw high explosive shells at German bombers, nine people in ten call the fragments of the shells "shrapnel."

They are wrong, but they are commemorating a great British artillery officer.

Henry Shrapnel, a Wiltshire man, entered the Army in 1770, and invented a shell which threw forward, after the burst, a shower of marble-like bullets.

The great Wellington found it valuable, and urged generous reward.

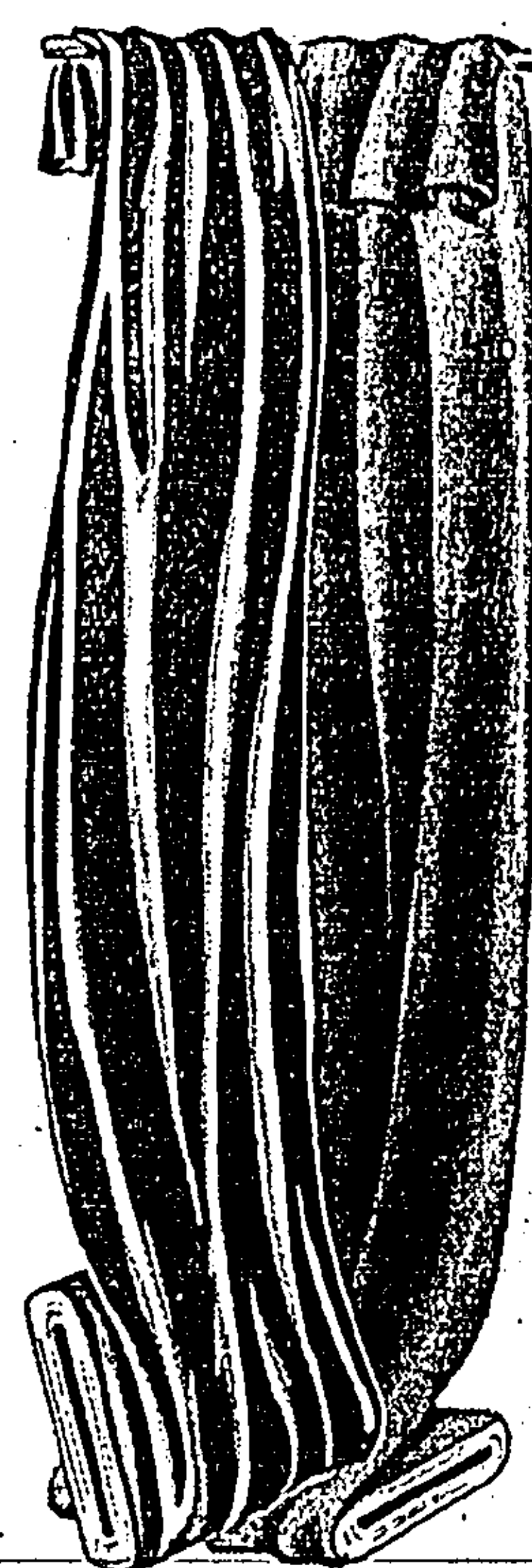
Sir George Wood, the duke's artillery adviser, said it saved the battle of Waterloo. Generals and admirals testified to its success in many campaigns.

But Shrapnel, on getting a pension of £1,200 a year, was superseded in the ordinary line of promotion and died an embittered man, declaring that he would have been better off had he made no inventions.

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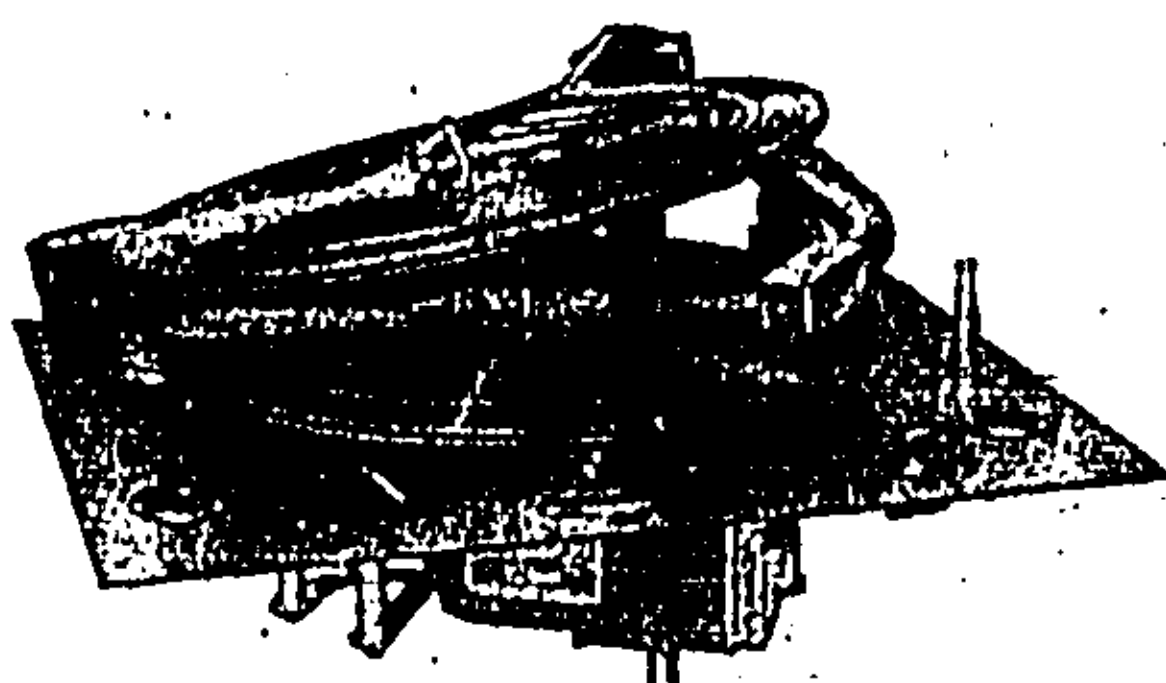
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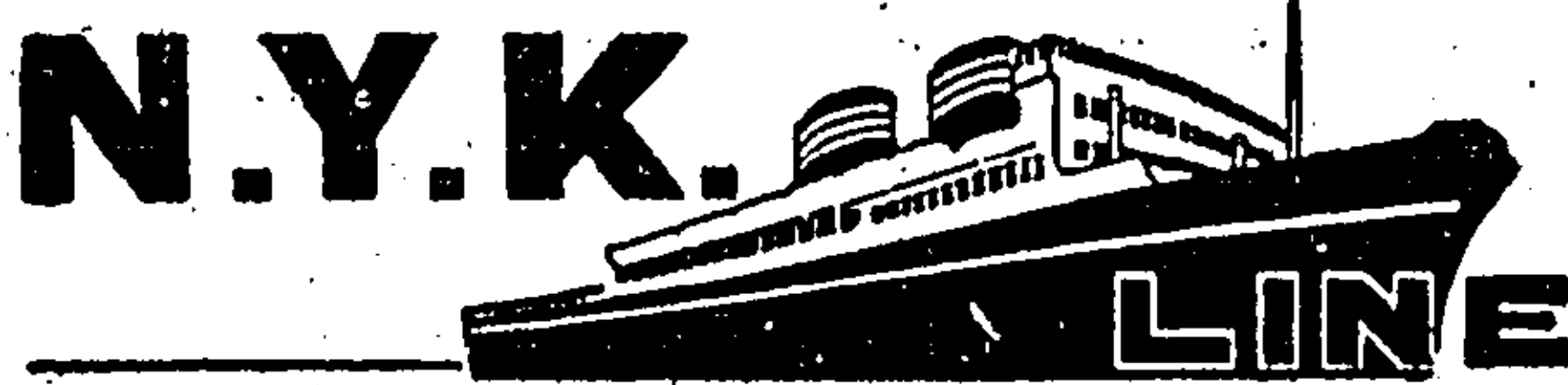
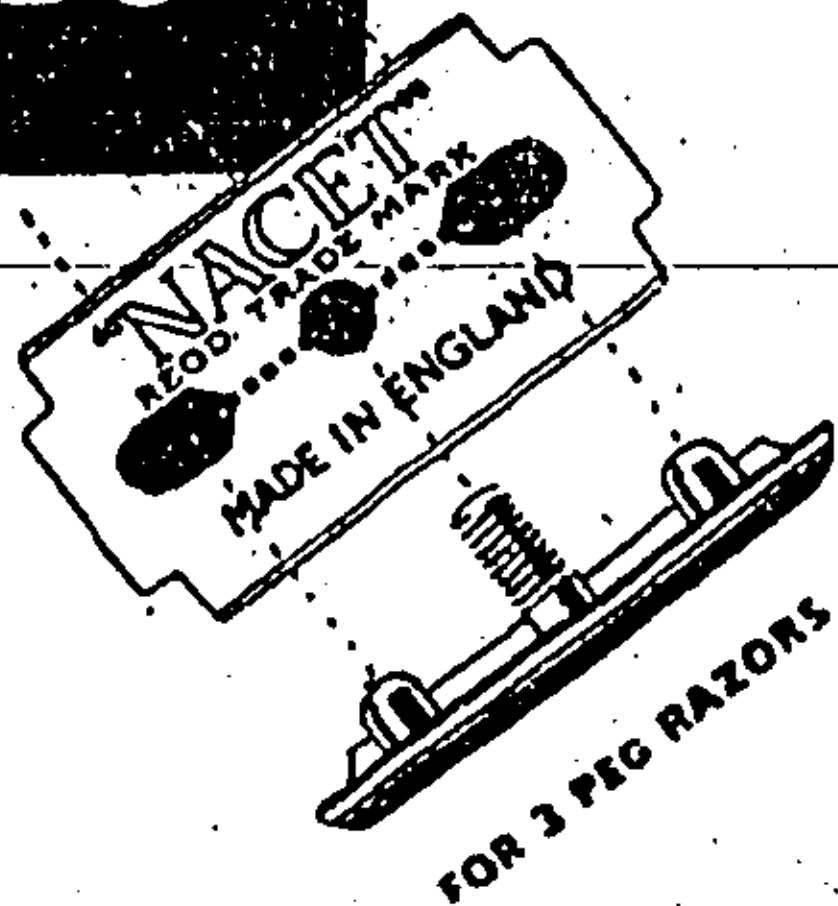


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The Hongkong Telegraph

Thursday, December 26, 1940.
Wyndham St., Hongkong
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RE-MOULD THIS WORLD

This is the season of re-birth, reincarnation, re-planning. A time to tear this old world apart and re-mould it nearer to the heart's desire. Side by side with the political and military revolutions that are being wrought in Europe and China, immense evolutions are taking place in the social order that calls itself democracy. These changes are likely to be so profound, so cataclysmic, that they will dwarf the physical conflict into nothingness and will, in all probability, justify for the first time the greatest war that this earth has known, to make one system of living safe for its adherents.

Some great brains have already given their attention to this aspect and their conclusions that a social change of the first order is already being worked out in Great Britain seems to be borne out by the evidence available. This war is the working man's war. He is not this time fighting for capitalist concessions in some foreign clime nor is he going to the front blinded by the lofty sentiments of some mob inspired misguiding by powerful financial interests.

To many people the fact that Britain is spending an average of £10,000,000 a day on self defence without suffering any radical depression in her standard of living, has come as a hint of what she could have achieved in time of peace to better the welfare of her poor and sick, to develop her colonies and to educate her people. The lower working classes who are sustaining the burden of this war by their heroic industry under constant bombardment will not fail to make their voice heard after the war is over. The sound of their voices will ring through the Empire and will find a ready echo in Australia and Canada. Whether the Colonies will feel the immediate benefit is a matter for speculation. Colonies have probably been one of the major causes of the war; their administration by Great Britain has been the most controversial issue in the Empire since it grew haphazardly and unorganised on the strength of the Royal Navy and on the credits of our pioneer merchants.

The Colonies are unfortunate in that they do not possess a large middle class of Europeans endowed with voting powers. The tapas and administrative end is overwhelming and there has never been an effective and prompt medium for expressing and remedying grievances. The Press has done its share but has been handicapped by the lack of a consistent body of opinion—for most Europeans their sojourn abroad is a temporary phase and they have not the incentive to take issue on matters they would not tolerate if they had to face them for a lifetime.

When reflection is made on the boundless void between the means and manner of living of Britons of the highest station and Britons of the lowest, there is amazement at the dexterity with which we have kept these sore spots out of contact with our consciences. When a man can

Over a year has passed since the Germans overpowered Poland. Having retained about half the country with a population of almost 23,000,000, they bisected it once more and annexed to the Reich one-half, with nearly 11,000,000 inhabitants, of whom only 600,000 were Germans, while the other was formed into the "General-Gouvernement" for the occupied Polish Territories. According to the decree of October 12, 1939, this was to constitute "the future settlements of the Polish nation."

The part incorporated in the Reich includes all territories which had been Prussian before 1918, a wide belt of what had been Russian, and a few ex-Austrian districts west of Cracow. Nearly half the land now annexed had never before belonged to the Reich.

The incorporated territory comprises the coalmines and metal and engineering works of Upper Silesia, Teschen, Dombrowa, and Sosnowiec, the textile centre of Lodz (renamed Litzmannstadt), and some of the richest food-producing regions of Poland.

Polish Upper Silesia and the adjacent districts have been joined to Prussian Silesia, and some scraps in the north to East Prussia; but the bulk, in the centre, has been formed into two new provinces or *Reichsgaue*—*Wartheland*, under the notorious Greiser, former President of the Danzig Senate, and *Danzig-Westpreussen*, under the still more notorious Forster, former *Gauleiter* of Danzig, who, even in the days of German-Polish "appeasement," used to talk of the Poles in the most contemptuous terms, "the mildest of which," says Rauschning, "was 'lice'."

"It will be my glorious task in the next few years to obliterate all that speaks of Poland, whatever it may be," he declared at Bromberg on November 27, 1939, "Whoever belongs to the Polish nation has to leave the country."

HITLER'S MEANING

"The mentality of the last century which thought it possible perhaps to make Germans of Poles and French, is foreign to us," Hitler had declared in the Reichstag on May 17, 1933. His meaning is now plain. Countries are to be Germanized by extirpating their

toss back a family's daily earnings in the form of a whisky soda, while healthy intelligent human beings are held back by poverty from physical and mental development, there is something grievously wrong.

Hospitals, sanitary services, education, poor laws, housing, agriculture, factory conditions, street arabs, prostitution, policing and innumerable other matters of public concern need attention imperatively. We have not stated yet what our war aims are; instinctively the working man has come to believe that better social conditions will result from this war. It is up to us not to disappoint him.

POLAND under the GERMANS

population, not by a process of denationalisation.

Land in the annexed provinces owned by Poles has in principle been expropriated; their farms have been placed under control (Zwangverwaltung, decree of February 12, 1940); and removal of the population has been taken in hand. A task of such magnitude naturally cannot be completed or even planned as a whole, nor do the Nazis tie their hands by clearly defined regulations. Deliberate vagueness leaves scope for arbitrary action. Their decrees frequently contain this characteristic clause: *Sowoit. Vorschriften nicht unmittelbar angewendet werden können, sind sie stinngemass anzuwenden* ("where regulations cannot be directly applied, action in their sense should be taken").

This extirpation started with the educated classes—big landowners, doctors, lawyers, teachers, priests, and business men. The

were made to place in vans. These were detached before the train started.

OF GERMAN ORIGIN

The farms, houses, and workshops of the deported Poles and Jews, complete with stock, tools, furniture, and even clothing and linen, are handed over to Germans, belauded in lyrical Press accounts as *brave, tatkräftige Menschen* ("decent, industrious men"). The local German "minority" receives its fill of loot and of audacious enjoyment, and its ranks are swelled by people who now choose to remember their German origin. Those of German extraction, however distant, who refuse to become *Volksdeutsche* are treated even worse than the Jews.

To the local Germans are joined "evacuees" from provinces occupied by the Bolsheviks. Some 70,000 from the Baltic States have gone mainly into the towns. Of the 75,000 from the late Ukrainian provinces of Poland, most have been settled in villages, largely east of the German frontier of 1914. Some further 150,000 are expected from Bessarabia and the Bukovina, but apparently none of the 2,000,000

A year's wholesale exploitation, pillage, maltreatment and cruelty surveyed by a Special Correspondent

Polish population was to be deprived of its leaders. Thousands of them were executed in the first months of the occupation; tens of thousands have since been deported to the *General-Gouvernement*.

But soon expulsion was extended even to working classes. It was begun in October at Gdynia (renamed *Gotenhafen*) so as to cut off the Poles from the sea. Next came the town of Poznan. In time belts of villages were cleared of their Polish population. The Jews were everywhere treated with the greatest cruelty.

The evacuation is in the hands of Himmler and the Gestapo, and little that inhumanity can devise is thus spared the victims.

A few years ago Hitler started to train, in four *Ordensburgen*, a "knightly order" of super-Nazis. Some two hundred of these *Ordensjunker* were drafted for deportation work.

By March, 1940, about 700,000 Poles and Jews had been expelled; now their number exceeds 1,000,000. In the appalling cold of last January up to 10 trains a day left the annexed provinces with people herded together, mostly in cattle trucks. Transports are known to have been *en route* for as long as 18 days, and numbers of people froze to death. The survivors arrived stripped of their property at places where no provision had been made for them.

Almost worse than German cruelty is German humour. In certain cases the victims were paid compensation in Reich bank-notes withdrawn from circulation more than 10 years ago, and at Poznan the Jews henceforth, allowed to shoot the Nazis, who have taken care of their belongings which they expected to suffice for the needs of

General-Gouvernement, but a strict hierarchy with regard to the distribution of food will regulate the incidence of hunger to suit the Nazi *Weltanschauung*. The German Army comes first, then the S.S., the *Reichsdeutsche*, the *Volksdeutsche* after them the Poles, and last, if anything is left, the Jews.

The counterpart to economic destruction and exploitation is supplied by the treatment of Polish universities, institutes, libraries, and museums. They had their treasures either pilfered or deliberately destroyed so as to obliterate Poland's historic past and uproot her intellectual life. Here again German *bonhomie*, a mixture of obtuseness and perfidy, has shown itself to advantage. German scholars who had visited Polish academic institutions during the period of German-Polish cultural rapprochement now return to steal the treasures which they had been shown as guests, and expostulate if an object which had caught their fancy is missing.

During the period of "friendship," in February, 1936, the Nazi Minister Frank came to Warsaw and discoursed in glowing terms on German-Polish co-operation. This same Frank now presides over the *General-Gouvernement* at Cracow, Warsaw having been deliberately reduced to ruins a year ago. His administration is chaotic and does little honour to him and his assistants.

There are, in fact, three independent administrations—the civil government, staffed with officials of low quality. Governor Frank himself explained in an interview published in the *Westdeutscher Beobachter* on February 11, 1940:—

The Germans have coined a new term for defining the value of Civil servants in the *General-Gouvernement*: *Po-lendensattuglich* ("suited to service in Poland"). It speaks of authority and comradeship. I don't care about a man's antecedents. All that matters is his performance.

THE GERMAN VISTULA

At first the *General-Gouvernement* was apparently intended to become a protectorate under a puppet Government, but so far the Germans have failed to discover any Polish quislings, and on August 15, at a Nazi rally at Cracow, Frank made the following announcement:—

A few days ago the Führer determined—that, henceforth the *Gouvernement* was not to be looked upon as occupied territory, but as an integral part of the Great-German power space. No one shall in future find employment here who is not the strongest and most determined. National-Socialist. Here the party must prove its ability to secure for ever German domination over this country conquered by the German Armies. The Vistula is henceforth a German river.

To convert Cracow into a worthy centre of "Adolf Hitler's Great-German Reich," Frank ordered the expulsion of Jews from the city. Otherwise the change from occupation to annexation was hardly felt, and it seems to have been primarily a hint given to Russia, a demonstration of the German will to build up her own strongholds in Eastern Europe.

Similarly the game now carried on with the Ukrainians is directed as much against Russia as against the Poles.

In Eastern Chelm, along the River San, and in the Carpathians, Poland under German occupation contains a certain number of Ukrainians. These now receive preferential treatment. Schools are opened for them, courses are held to train them for local government work; posts are provided for members of the Ukrainian *intelligentsia* who have fled from Bolshevism; the Greek Orthodox Church receives encouragement; national Ukrainian associations are founded and fostered.

Altogether in the scale of favours, the Ukrainians rank immediately after the Germans. It is further significant that the official Polish *Anti-Communist Intelligence Service* in Warsaw is, with the sole change of its director, kept working by the Nazis, who have taken care to preserve its archives, and its expected to suffice for the needs of organisation.

POPE'S FIVE PRECEPTS FOR ENDURING WORLD PEACE

LONDON, DEC. 24 (REUTER).—THE SOLACE WE DERIVE FROM THE RICHES OF CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IS GREATER BECAUSE OF THE SAD TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE, SAID HIS HOLINESS THE POPE, IN A BROADCAST TO-DAY FROM THE VATICAN AFTER RECEIVING GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS.

"AS MEMBERS OF THE ROMAN CURIA," THE POPE ADDED, "YOU HAVE A DEEP-FELT UNDERSTANDING FOR THE HIGH MISSION IN WHICH YOU, EACH IN HIS OWN OFFICE AND DOMAIN, HAVE TO COLLABORATE AND PARTICIPATE."

Referring to the problems that will arise at the end of the war, "when people will be obliged to dedicate themselves to the task of repairing the deep-seated evil which will be their bitter social and economic heritage," the Pope said that nations will come to realise the need for the solution of social problems in a spirit of Christianity. "The world will leave the hard school of to-day with an improved mind. Mankind will listen to the voice of reason and of justice."

"Only in such a state of mind can the world proceed to the establishment of a new order based on justice."

Five Peace Points

Saying that he wished to give a few precepts for the conclusion of a lasting peace, the Pope continued:

"We must strive for (1) victory over hatred, for grave damage is inflicted upon the human soul by a lack of love of Christ; (2) victory over lack of trust in international co-operation; (3) victory over the grim principle that force stands for right—that is, return of morality among nations; (4) victory over economic

divergencies; (5) victory over egotism."

The Pope added: "We pray that men will grow more united to establish a new and just social and economic order. We pray that mankind will be liberated from their tribulations."

Before enunciating the five peace precepts, the Pope referred to war which, with tragic and almost fatal persistence, once let loose, proceeds on its way, forgetful of the principles of humanity and indifferent to the unages of convention of war, and goes to such extremes that an age less troubled than yours will one day note its events as among the saddest and darkest of the world's history."

"Our thoughts run forward anxiously to the moment when the sad chronicles of man, the sufferings of minds in anguish, of wounded prisoners and refugees, down-trodden, famished, fainting and weeping, come in their entirety to light. But what we know at present is already sufficient to oppress and tear the heart."

Position Remains

Continuing the Pope said: "Exactly one year ago, in this very place were formulated certain principles regarded as essential for the preservation of peace which would conform to the principles of justice, equity and honour, and would thus be enduring. If the succeeding march of events has delayed their application to a more distant time, the self-same proposals have lost none of their intrinsic truth and conformity to reality and their moral force."

"To-day we find ourselves faced with a fact of some consequence as a symptom. From the impression of the polemics of the warring factions concerning their objectives in war and the ultimate peace settlement, there emerges ever more clearly in mind a quasi-universal opinion which contends that both pre-war Europe as well as its political structure are now undergoing a process of transformation of such a nature as to signal the dawn of a new era."

New System Required

Europe and its system of states will not be as they were before. Something new and better, more advanced, more sound, freer and stronger, must replace the past order and eliminate the defects, weaknesses and deficiencies which are said to have been convincingly disclosed by recent events."

"Various parties differ in their ideals and aims but agree in their desire for a new arrangement, and do not consider possible or desirable a return to former conditions. With some clear knowledge of the defects of the present determined orientation towards a rearrangement that will safeguard the juridical basis of political and international life, no one can be surprised that this pulsating desire is felt more keenly by those larger sections that live by manual labour and so are always found, in peace and war, to taste more than others the bitter results of economic dislocation, internal and international. Still less will the Church be surprised."

Role Of The Church

The Pope then explained that the Church could not be called on to favour one system more than another, but added that "in the orbit of the universal value of divine law," there was ample room for liberty of action and for the most varied forms of political opinion, while practical application of political systems largely depended on circumstances which, considered in themselves, were extraneous to the purpose and action of the Church."

The sole interest of the Church, he said, was to establish a society which would be humanly praiseworthy, spiritually elevating and a source of genuine good."

Earthquake Shakes U. S. And Canada

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"—NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (UP).—An earthquake was felt in the north-eastern part of the United States and southeastern Canada, from Montreal to New York City, and in Pennsylvania where houses and business buildings were shaken. There was no damage.

The seismologist at Fordham University said the quake was recorded at 8.44 a.m. E.S.T. and that the centre appeared to be about 320 miles north of New York, in the New England states.

LONDON, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Hitler is spending Christmas among his troops in the west as he did last year, according to the German radio,

SUDDEN DEATH OF COLONY SPORTSMAN

Norman Lee, Interport Swimmer

The death of Mr Norman Lee, former Colony swimming champion, occurred with tragic suddenness at the Kowloon Hospital in the early hours of Christmas morning. It was a great shock to his many friends.

The late Mr Lee was born in Birkenhead, England, 21 years ago, and came to Hongkong at an early age. He studied at both the Diocesan Boys' School and then Queen's College.

He leaves six brothers and a sister to mourn his passing. Though a keen sportsman he confined himself to swimming, and in this had represented the Colony. In 1938, the year following his capture of the local championship titles, he toured the South Seas in a very successful effort to raise money for the China War Relief Fund, and on that tour made a host of friends in Java, the Philippines and Singapore.

In 1939 he repeated this visit, during which he contracted the fever which struck him with such suddenness yesterday.

The Funeral

The funeral was held at the Protestant Cemetery yesterday at 5 p.m. The Very Rev. Dean Wilson officiated.

The family mourners were the sister, Mrs B. C. Randall, the brothers, Frank, Tinker and Robbie, and Mr Randall, brother-in-law. The other brothers absent from the Colony are Capt. W. Lee, Stanley and George. Owing to the suddenness of his death only a few of his many friends could be present; floral tributes were sent by Ada and Bessie, Will and May, Frank and Nellie, Robbie and Nora, Stanley and Ethel, Conk and George, Eric, Gordon and Honor, Connie, Molly and Eddie, Vivienne and Mabel, Mr Shi Yu-man, Mr S. M. Churn and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Maxwell and family, Mr and Mrs. Field, the Committee and Members of the Victoria Recreation Club.

ITALIANS BLASTED BY R. A. F.

Planes Destroyed, Fires Started

CAIRO, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—Four Italian aircraft were definitely destroyed by R.A.F. fighters on offensive patrols over the Bardia-Tobruk area yesterday, states an R.A.F. (Middle East) communique.

With regard to the attack on Benina on the night of December 22-23, it is now definitely established that one hangar at the aerodrome there was completely destroyed by fire and that three Italian aircraft on the ground near the hangar were burnt out.

In Italian East Africa, dive-bombing attacks were made on a pumping station near Assab and the target was well-straddled with bombs. Reconnaissance flights were also made in this area and the Rhodesian attacks on Italian positions near Gallabat. Fires were started by explosions.

South Africa Now Ready

General Smuts' Message

PRETORIA, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—General Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, addressed a confident message to the South African forces to-day.

"It has been a black year in human history," he said. "But, thank God, the tide at last is turning."

In the unprepared state of South Africa's defences, it had been a year of preparation. General Smuts continued that preparations were now completed and the time for action would come in the new year.

Marshal Petain Shows Mercy

VICHY, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—Marshal Petain has decided to "exercise clemency" in the case of a number of officers and non-commissioned officers captured during General de Gaulle's attempt to land at Dakar, according to an official announcement issued to-day.

The communique says that these men have requested that they should again be allowed to take their places in the French Army.



THE LATE MR N. LEE

Thakhek Is Shelled

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"—HANOI, Dec. 24 (UP).—On Monday and Tuesday afternoons Thailand artillery fired 22 shells on Thakhek. At Hinhoun, north of Thakhek, rifle fires damaged some junks last Monday.

Cunningham's Reception

MALTA, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Great crowds cheered the arrival here recently of the British Fleet, including the flagship flying the flag of Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet, who met spontaneous ovations wherever he went. Scenes of wild enthusiasm were witnessed at the dockyard when he made a tour of inspection and his car was frequently stopped by wildly-cheering crowds.

Thanking the people, Sir Andrew said: "I have nothing to deserve all these cheers. You should cheer yourselves."

Assab Bombed

ADEN, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—The R.A.F. on Monday night bombed Assab, the objective being a pumping station.

All bombs fell within the target area.

French Leader Honoured

London Ceremony

LONDON, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—Free Frenchmen and French women have presented General Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French forces, with a sword of honour as an expression of their loyalty and respect.

The ceremony took place in the Overseas Club in London and as General de Gaulle entered the room the "Marseillaise" was played while French African troops presented arms.

General de Gaulle, returning thanks for the gift, emphasised the need for unity at the present time.

How Hitler Spent Christmas

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"—BERLIN, Dec. 24 (UP).—The official German news agency reports that Hitler, as last year, is spending Christmas at the front with his soldiers and front workers.

Another report says that Goering, the Air Commander, is "personally giving the children of each German flyer who has been killed in the war a Christmas gift of 1,000 marks to be put into a savings account which, with interest, will remain in the bank until the child is 21 years of age. Exceptions, such as for girls with dowries, are provided."

DISMAY IN LIBYA

Troops' Morale Very Low

ATHENS, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—The dismay and uncertainty caused in Libya by the British offensive are described in the newspaper, "Vradyny," by a Greek who escaped from Benghazi a few days ago. The inhabitants of Tobruk and Derna were fleeing south as refugees and the native population were already discussing possible Italian capitulation.

The morale of the native troops he described as very low, chiefly because nine-tenths of the thousands of wounded coming from the Sollum region were natives.

He quoted a report that a whole Askari regiment stationed in the southern sector of the Libyan frontier had broken up and disappeared in the desert.

When the Greeks left Benghazi, no Italian convoys had arrived for a fortnight, which was greatly worrying the authorities as supplies by plane were far from adequate.

Roosevelt's Christmas Message

Striving For A Better World

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—Most human beings want a "peaceful chance to better the world in a voluntary way and not in the way imposed by conquest," President Roosevelt declared in his annual Christmas greeting to the people of the United States.

The President further declared: "We must keep on striving for a better world. It is unintelligent to be a be a defeatist. Crisis may beget crisis but progress underneath does not wholly halt. It does go forward."

This cannot be a merry Christmas, the President added, for those of mature years but it can be a "happy Christmas if by happiness we mean that we have done with doubts, that we have set our hearts anew, that we still believe in the golden rule of all mankind."

Boundless Admiration

N. Zealand's Message

WELLINGTON, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—An assurance of the boundless admiration with which New Zealand regards the heroic attitude of the British people is contained in a cable from Mr Peter Fraser, the Prime Minister, conveying greetings to Mr Winston Churchill.

The message says: "We are deeply conscious of our great debt to the British people and the armed forces of the Commonwealth for their untiring efforts on land, sea and air, and to the men of the mercantile marine."

"We have full confidence that the united efforts of the British Commonwealth will result in victory, and we will continue to do our utmost to contribute to the common task."

"Black-out" In Holy Land

Christmas Gloom

BETHLEHEM, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—Bethlehem is having its first "black-out" Christmas in history.

Even the Church of Nativity and the old St. Christmas Church are wrapped in a collective gloom instead of being a blaze of triumphant lights as is the custom on peaceful Christmas Eves.

The traditional bonfire in fields where shepherds still watch their flocks by night must this year be put out early lest it guide raiders.

This conformity to regulations, however, will not prevent sheep being roasted before the fire as in past years and the watchlight service in the Church of Nativity.

Jerusalem has been a cosmopolitan city for over 1,900 years but to-day it has now a cosmopolitanism of armed men from the British Empire, Free France, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

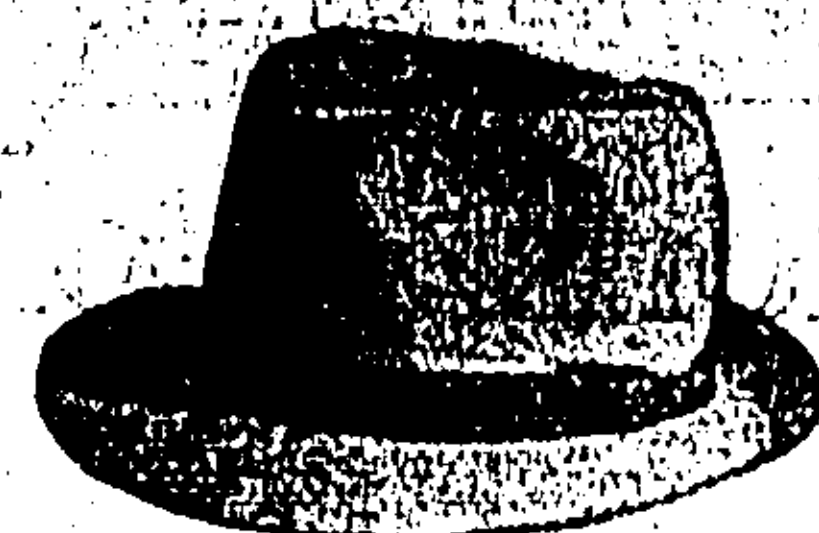
GERMAN CLAIMS Ships Sunk In Channel

LONDON, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—The German High Command asserts that during a raid by German motor torpedo boats towards the coast of England, the leading craft sank a 10,000-ton British tanker and a 6,000-ton cargo steamer despite the protection of six British destroyers.

The High Command communique adds that a short close-range engagement developed between the torpedo boats and the destroyers. All the German craft returned safely.

The communique declared that six ships in Loch Linnhe, on the Scottish west coast, were hit by heavy bombers, that trains were machine-gunned, and that during Monday night, London and Manchester were attacked by strong formations of the Luftwaffe.

British raids on Germany are stated to have done only slight damage in south-west frontier districts.



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Hearst's Views On Duce

Good Chest For Medals

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—"It is only natural to wonder whether Mussolini, despite his rather distinguished career, is not something of a four-flusher himself—like Louis Napoleon, all gold braid, cockfeathers and horse feathers," writes William Randolph Hearst, caustically in his newspapers.

"That chest seems just made for medals, and that chin! Well, we all know what happens when a man continually lends with his chin. You have got to have something else beside a chin and a chest to be a real leader. You have got to have something other than hot air to be a real leader."

Scripps-Howard Press

LONDON, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Editorials in the Scripps Howard newspapers say: "We would hate to be in Mussolini's spot right now, for Churchill has all the art which made the Roman citizen turn on the Brutus they had cheered only a few minutes before and cry, 'Burn, fire, slay!'"

"This latter-day synthetic Caesar may end up about as popular with the multitude as did Brutus after Anthony got rough with him in their oratorical contest."

Sing War Songs For Carols

FROM PAGE ONE

day of this evening although there were minor sporadic raids on two provincial towns.

It is reported that a new method for dealing with Nazi night raiders has been devised, and has won some success.

Coast Town Suffers

AT A SOUTH COAST TOWN, Dec. 24 (UP).—There was widespread destruction and many were made homeless in the air raid last night. The working class district in the poorest part of town was the worst sufferer when scores of bombs were dropped there which rendered several of the streets uninhabitable. So far as is known, six are dead and numerous others injured.

Berlin Instructions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (UP).—According to the German Embassy, Berlin has instructed the German air force not to bomb Britain on Christmas Day or December 26 unless they are "compelled to retaliate" for British attacks on Germany.

LATE NEWS

Nazis Pouring Into Rumania

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (Dome).—Miles of Nazi Army trains are passing through Hungary into Rumania indicating a possible vast Nazi offensive in the Balkans this winter, according to the "Associated Press" report from Bucharest.

It is learned that the Nazis plan to move 1,160 trains by December 31 and military experts estimated that a minimum of 300,000 additional Nazi soldiers with full equipment, including artillery and motorized vehicles, will be transferred to Rumania within a month.

It is recalled that 100,000 Nazi troops are already in Rumania. The report says that the movement has caused great excitement in diplomatic circles in the Balkans who are speculating whether Germany is, firstly, planning a move against Greece and Turkey; secondly, preparing for "an inevitable showdown" with Russia; thirdly, trying to assure civil order in Rumania, and fourthly, staging part of the general game of bluff against Russia.

Churchill's Speech Reactions

FROM PAGE ONE

Italian people has provoked angry comment from the German official news agency, which describes it as the "desperate act of a man who has lost his lucidity of mind."

Alleging that the Prime Minister is ignorant of the psychology of a totalitarian state, the agency says: "He has grasped nothing of the outlook of Germany and Italy, which are politically and militarily an invincible block of power unequalled by any alliance of former times."

Stings Axis

LONDON, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Mr. Anthony Eden was obviously behind

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE RELATIVES of the late Mr. Norman Lee wish to thank their friends for messages of sympathy and floral tributes in their recent bereavement.

Mr. Churchill's broadcast to Italy, declares the official "Diplomatische Correspondenz" to-day.

The newspaper urges that "Apart from the identity of their philosophy, the unbreakable union of the German and Italian people, ordered by fate, consists in a clear realization that they will win their place in the sun."

"Mr. Churchill in desperation may twist and turn in all directions but the unalterable aim of the Axis remains to liberate their common living ways from British control."

Wilhelmina Confident

FROM PAGE ONE

LONDON, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Having followed the course of events with tense attention, I believe myself to be in a position to tell you that in recent months prospects have greatly improved. "We face the future with confidence in ultimate victory than before," said Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands in a broadcast this evening to her people in the Netherlands East and West Indies.

Japan-Thailand Treaty

FROM PAGE ONE

friendly contract in order to exchange information and to consult each other on any question of common interest that may arise.

"Article 3. In the event of one of the high contracting parties suffering from an attack from any third Power or Powers, the other party undertakes not to give aid or assistance to the party attacked, or Powers against the party attacked."

"Article 4. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 5. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

Christmas In Tubes

Londoners Make Merry

LONDON, Dec. 25 (Reuter).—The Army forgot the serious business ahead for a brief spell to have its biggest "blow-out" of the year—turkey, pork and beef dinner washed down with beer—while those who passed Christmas in London's "tubes" spent the time in carol-singing and gaily in gaily-decorated underground shelters.

Boys and girls laid out their stockings on Christmas Eve on station platforms where Santa Claus found and filled them.

In one tube shelter on Christmas night, girls in party frocks danced with their partners to music from violin and piano after presents had been distributed to the children from a big Christmas tree.

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"Article 6. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 7. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 8. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 9. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 10. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 11. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 12. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 13. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 14. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 15. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 16. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 17. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 18. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 19. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 20. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 21. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 22. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 23. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 24. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 25. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 26. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 27. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 28. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

"Article 29. The present treaty shall come into effect on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date. In case neither of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other six months before the expiration of the said period of five years of its intention to terminate the treaty, it shall continue to operate until the expiration of one year from the date on which either party shall have given such a notice."

"Article 30. The present treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible."

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Inflation Looms In Japan

TOKYO, Dec. 26 (Reu-
ter).—Officials of the Bank
of Japan moved to check the
continued inflationary trend
when that institution opened
this morning.

The total note issue, which
is a new high record, reach-
ed ¥4,405,000,000 on Decem-
ber 24. In the meantime
loans outstanding had reach-
ed ¥585,000,000.

This demand for loans is
attributed to the need for
funds to pay dividends and
also the lag in government
payments.

BRITISH ACTION FROM KENYA

Closing In On Italians

(By "Reuter's" Correspondent in Sudan)

KHARTOUM, Dec. 26.—British patrols in the Kassala
sector of the 1,200 mile Sudan-Abyssinian front are becoming
more active and aggressive, and although this railway town,
which is situated inside the Sudan 20 miles from the frontier, is
held by the enemy, its streets have become dangerous at night for
unwary Italian troops.



Sir Robert Brooke-Popham
Far East Command
C-In-C. Here

Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert
Brooke-Popham, the newly appointed
Commander-in-Chief of the Com-
bined British Forces in the Far East
arrived in Hongkong by steamer from
Singapore to-day.

Sir Robert Brooke-Popham will
confer with the heads of the services
in the Colony and carry out an in-
spection of defences.

DEATH OF MR NEIL LANG

Popular Hongkong
Ship's Officer

The loss of one of the most
highly esteemed and popular
figures on the China Coast has
taken place in the death, which
occurred suddenly in Colombo
on Christmas Day, of Mr Neil
Lang. The news was conveyed
by cable this morning to the
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.,
with which firm the late Mr
Lang had served as a chief
engineer for more than 30 years.

Mr Lang left Hongkong a few
months ago because his ship was
requisitioned for service by the
British Government.

Born in 1873, Mr Lang served his
apprenticeship with Messrs William
Denny and Co., Ltd., of Dumbarton,
Scotland, before coming out to
China. In 1900 he joined the China
Navigation Co., Ltd. Eight years
later he joined the Douglas inter-
colonial line, and had remained with that organiza-
tion ever since.

Fine Officer & Gentleman
A typical Scot of the old school,
Mr Lang was a fine officer and a
great gentleman. He was held in
high regard and affection in many
circles. He possessed a keen wit and
TURN to Back Page, Column 3

250 GUNS POUNDING AWAY AT BELEAGURED CITY OF BARDIA

By RICHARD MACMILLAN
"United Press" Correspondent

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY BESIEGING BARDIA, DEC. 26 (UP).—
HEAVY BRITISH ARTILLERY THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS DAY HAM-
MERED THE BELEAGURED CITY OF BARDIA, AND OCCASIONALLY
THERE WERE INFANTRY ENGAGEMENTS IN NO-MAN'S-LAND.

THE BRITISH ATTACKERS HAVE BROUGHT UP HEAVY NAVAL
ARTILLERY AND AT LEAST 250 BRITISH GUNS OF ALL CALIBRE ARE
MASSSED IN A SEMI-CIRCLE AROUND THE PORT, INCLUDING SOME
FRESH BATTERIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADDED DURING THE PAST 24
HOURS.

The Italians, who have been beaten further
back upon Bardia, have been stubbornly resisting.
There is brilliant sunshine and a cold wind
is blowing.

The rival armies remained heedless of the
Feast of Nativity as the British forces sought to
sweep the Italian defences into the sea.

Japanese Start New Operations

Southwest Kwangtung
Towns Bombed

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
CANTON, Dec. 27 (Domei).—
Simultaneously with the bring-
ing into effect on December 25
of the blockade announced by
Admiral Shigetaro Shimada,
Commander-in-Chief of the
Japanese China Seas Fleet, on
December 23, Japanese naval
forces, including aircraft, start-
ed operations against the Chung-
king supply routes and harbours
along the southwestern coast of
Kwangtung, according to the
press section of the Japanese
South China Seas Fleet.

Naval planes carried out re-
connaissance flights over Shui-
tung, Timpak, Yeungkong, Feng-
tow, and Kwonghoi on the
southwestern coast of Kwang-
tung, inflicting severe damage to
warehouses filled with war
materials to be used by Chiang
Kai-shek's forces.

Belgians Called To Arms

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (Reuter).—A
"call to arms" to all Belgians between
the ages of 19 and 25 has been issued
by the Belgian Consul-General, M.
Charles Halbert.
His appeal also includes reserve
officers, while volunteers between the
ages of 18 and 36 will be accepted.
The announcement says: "Armed
Belgians are now being formed
in England to fight side by side with
the British and Allied armies.
Belgium is not occupied by the
German Army and should consult their
nearest Consul regarding their
present military status."

U.S. Transport Battered By Pacific Typhoon

Special to the "Telegraph"

HONOLULU, Dec. 26 (UP).—The United States Army
transport Etolin arrived from Manila to-day enroute to San
Francisco after having been buffeted on December 20 by a
typhoon which carried away the after deck house, broke a num-
ber of windows and disabled the radio antenna temporarily.

The ship carried about 100
passengers of whom about 50
were soldiers. Two of the crew
were injured and subsequently
died.

The Etolin's Master, Captain
Adolph Schultz, said that the storm
was the worst in his 45 years of ex-
perience. The wind blew a force
12 which is hurricane strength. He
said, "The wind was so terrific that
no one was able to stand on deck."

Little Warning
The storm burst with but little
warning at 10 a.m. on December 20

De Gaulle Tells Vichy

LONDON, Dec. 26 (Reuter).
—The announcement that the
Vichy Government has decided to
release French officers
captured at Dakar has drawn
from General de Gaulle a re-
joinder.

He welcomes the fact that French
public opinion has compelled the re-
lease of these officers and non-
commissioned officers whom, until
recently, Vichy had intended to bring
before a Court Martial.
General de Gaulle adds that it is
however, clearly understood that the
step taken by Vichy will in no way
modify the safety measures taken
regarding certain generals and senior
officers arrested by the Free French
forces in the course of recent Police
operations in Gabon.

Hitler May Soon Attempt Invasion Of The Ukraine

Special to the "Telegraph"

SOFIA, Dec. 26 (UP).—Neutral sources are re-emphasising the possibility of
Hitler attempting an invasion of the Ukraine.

It is declared that a blitzkrieg campaign may be staged during January, when
there is very little snow falling and everything is frozen hard, enabling the easy use
of motorised equipment.

It is pointed out that if such a campaign is successful, Hitler will have his
own granary which would be ready for planting by the spring.

It was added that such a cam-
paign was well within the
bounds of possibility "in this
war of surprises in which logic
plays no part."

Turkish Opinion

Istanbul, Dec. 26 (UP).—A very
well informed source who has just
returned to Istanbul from Rumania
is of the opinion that the arrival
of any large new bodies of German
troops would be highly significant,
since the Rumanian authorities are
not expecting any increase in the pre-
sent figure, which, he said, was 42,000
men.

He suggested that any troop move-
ments through Hungary might be
partially due to a shift towards south
Poland.
He estimated that there are 70
German divisions on the Russo-Polish
front, the movement of which is
difficult because of the comparatively
antiquated Polish railway system.

Berlin Dismisses Reports

BERLIN, Dec. 26 (UP).—Auth-
orized Nazi circles said the foreign
reports of Russo-German difficulties
in the Rumanian area were "routine
attempts of foreign propagandists to
disturb the relations of the two coun-
tries."

They also dismissed the "wishful
thinking" reports of German troop
movements on the Russo-German
frontier, and that Russia had streng-
thened her garrisons in both Besa-
rabia and Poland.
They put aside the report that the
Russian delegate had resigned from
the Danube river control conference
which has now been adjourned until
the middle of January.

SUSPECT MURDER

The body of a Chinese was found
on the hillside near Stanley Barracks
this morning.
No wounds were visible, but there
were scratches on the face and hands,
and the police suspect murder. They
are investigating.

Further Experiments With A.R.P. Tunnels

Work on the A.R.P. tunnels continued during the Christ-
mas holidays, said Wing-Comdr A. H. Steele-Perkins, Director
of Air Raid Precautions, and work on other A.R.P. projects is
being proceeded with.

Experiments with seating ac-
commodation and a system of
ventilation was tried out.

Work on Kowloon tunnels was
completed, and the tunnels were now
available for use as shelters.
The tunnels on the island, on the
other hand, were found to provide
difficulties on account of the steepness
of the hillside. When rain fell the
tunnels would become full and the
volume of the water would constitute
a danger to people sheltering there.

Certain of the tunnels on the island
were being fully investigated, and it
was hoped that they would ultimately
be made fit for use as shelters. All
tunnels were, nevertheless, potential
shelters in the event of an emergency.

THEY BOMBARD BARDIA

Here is one of the 250 guns
reported to be incessantly
bombarding the Italian strong-
hold of Bardia. As can be seen
in this official photograph, the
gun is manned by Australians.



NAZI EYES TURNING TOWARDS TURKEY

Special to the "Telegraph"

BUDAPEST, Dec. 26 (UP).—Germany now possesses suf-
ficient military strength to drive a wedge between Greece and
Turkey.

However, diplomatic sources assert that it would be difficult
to reconcile any German passage through Yugo-Slavia because of
the recent pact with Hungary.

The Bulgarian situation is
equally delicate.

It is believed that the Russian
garrisons in Bessarabia now
total at least 20 divisions with
full mechanized accessories.
This is double the number of
Russians there last summer and
early autumn.

Spring Attack?

Germany's reported troops move-
ment towards Rumania will require
about one month according to the
consensus of diplomatic opinion. It
represents preparations for spring-
time operations rather than any im-
mediate action in the Balkans, how-
ever, it is stressed the fact that it is
impossible to do any accurate fore-
casting because everything is appar-
ently dependent upon the attitude of
Russia.

Perhaps the Soviets would prefer
to throw their support towards
Turkey and remain aloof from any
direct conflict.

The German garrisons in Rumania
are estimated to range between ten
and thirty divisions but it is admitted
that this is purely guess work. Many
units are crossing the country carry-
ing heavy equipment.

TURN to Back Page, Column 3

AIR TRUCE ENDED Germans Raid Isle Of Sheppy

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 26 (UP).—At
5.40 p.m. it was announced that
the Christmas truce was ap-
parently ended.

The Air Ministry and the Ministry
of Home Security in a joint com-
munique said that the enemy bombed
the Isle of Sheppy this afternoon with
"little damage, no casualties and no
deaths."

Meanwhile, troops with machine-
guns on the English Channel coast
exercised extreme caution against
any possible German surprise in-
vasion through the mist—all coast high-
way traffic was stopped, inspected
and identified, while the crews of the
long-range guns commanding the
Strait of Dover were in readiness for
immediate action.

LATEST

See Back Page For
Further Late News